(c) As on 1.10.2001, OMCs were operating 493 LPG distributorships in the State of Tamil Nadu.

Delay in completion of Bhatinda Refinery

3766. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of Guru Gobind Singh Oil Refinery at Bhatinda in Punjab is likely to suffer in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount spent on the Refinery so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Rs. 184 crore upto 31.3.2002.

Janpath Hotel as Tourist House

†3767. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to convert Janpath Hotel in Delhi into a Tourist House;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the loss in revenue to be incurred to Government due to this decision; and

(d) the concrete steps Government are going to take to provide necessary facilities / information to the tourists at the proposed Tourist House?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) The matter is under consideration and details would be laid down on the Table of the House.

Closing of tourism offices abroad

†3768. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering for closing some of its offices abroad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of offices of Ministry of Tourism located abroad at present with name of the countries thereof;

(d) the amount spent by the Ministry on these offices during the last three years; and

(e) the amount that will be saved by Ministry every year by closing the offices located abroad?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Director General (Tourism) was constituted to review the India Tourism Offices abroad and suggest restructuring. The Committee analysed the flow of international tourists to India from different regions/countries. It recommended the closure of some offices because the flow of tourists from the countries under the purview of these offices is not significant and the expenditure being incurred on these offices is not commensurate with the advantages offered by them. It recommended that marketing and promotional activities in these countries could be undertaken through alternative methods and techniques thereby reducing the non-plan expenditure of the Department on account of these offices. This recommendation was considered and accepted.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.